ABC NEWS - STS-7 LAUNCH (6-18-1983)

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From Saturday, June 18th 1983 ABC NEWS Coverage of STS-7, the first mission to include the first American woman and 3rd woman in history to travel into space.

- Launched at 7:33:00 A.M E.T

  STS-7 CREW:

  Commander: Robert L. Crippen
  Pilot: Frederick H. Hauck
  Mission Specialist 1:John M. Fabian
  Mission Specialist 2:Sally K. Ride
  Mission Specialist 3:Norman E. Thagard

00:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeJWnOzSoks)

we interrupt our regular program schedule to bring you the following special report from abc news this is lynn sher at the kennedy space center in florida where challenger's last links to earth are being severed where the weather has made it a great day for flying according to commander bob crippen and where plenty of proud people particularly female people are on hand to watch america's first woman go into space good morning it is a beautiful day and indeed this is sally ride's day to make history in less than three minutes she will go up with challenger challenger second trip into space and sally rides first and indeed it's going to be a great day and joining us here for our coverage is our friend our colleague apollo astronaut gene cernan and gene it's going to come as no surprise to you i talked to sally ride yesterday and the cool calm scientist finally admitted her heartbeat her heart rate had gone up and she is excited well might well she should be lynn and i'm i think we ought to remember though that there are four other uh people on this flight and and i'm sure sally's excitement is shared by each of them because for three of them it's uh it's their first flight also okay well let's take a look at that this is of course a crew that is commanded by bob crippen the pilot is rick hauck uh he's 42 years old john fabian who's 44 there's sally ride and dr norman thaggart who's 40 was added uh only fairly recently because he's a physician and nasa has decided it really wants to look into space sickness which they're now calling space adaptation syndrome and that's what he's doing up there 15 seconds and the liquid hydrogen tank is at flight pressure that's the voice of shuttle control hugh harris who has in his own way launched all of these shuttles so far we're coming up on one minute uh the countdown has been near perfect all day long and the firing system for

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all day long and the firing system for the sound suppression water system on the pad is armed t-minus 55 the hydrogen igniters under the orbiter's engines have been armed these devices are used to ensure that hydrogen flowing through the engines uh does not accumulate uh causing a small explosion and pulse or pressure pulse at we should point out that sally ride is acting as flight engineers sitting behind the commander in the pilot reading out uh instruments with him she's got a very very critical uh task uh along with the auto sequence star command pilot and pilots the body flap and speed breaker in launch position minus 10 9 8 7 6. we go for main engine start we have main engine start and ignition and liftoff liftoff of sts-7 and america's first woman astronaut and the shuttle has cleared the tower oh never ceases to be challenger now excited miles an altitude 50 seconds coming up creative maximum rather than every pressure on the vehicle the vehicle is moving at a thousand miles an you're now hour the voice of mission

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you're now hour the voice of mission control from houston they of course take over as soon as the shuttle clears the pad this is perhaps the best view we've had of the booster and the shuttle engine firing this far away it's an outstanding picture very hard to see with the naked eye still there are people here oh no it's right above us absolutely right above us it's going straight up this time look at that right at the end of that long long trail of smoke people here at the cave having a perfect and then you might note that we did get off on time we did that one now 16 time miles in altitude 13 nautical miles downrange griffin halcon company now coming into the last traces of the earth's atmosphere challenger now 19 nautical miles in altitude that's over 100 000 feet and 2 000 miles an hour five seconds challenger 21 nautical miles in altitude 21 nautical miles downrange we are very close to the solid rocket booster separation just keep your eye on the screen you'll see them split away in just a second right now there they go that means the shuttle now is flying on its own confirmed the booster is falling away now they will be recovered of course and used on another mission two minutes 20 seconds challenger houston your first stage performance was nominal that was capcom roy bridges advising first stage performance on board guidance is converging noise program challenger is now steering for a precise window in space for main engine shutdown over 200 000 feet near and we can still see it from here silver sliver up there in the sky like a morning star nominal of course is what they want to hear that means everything is that's astronaut talk right gene that's astronaut capability that means they can cross the atlantic now if they lose an engine they do not

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now if they lose an engine they do not have to come back conroy bridges says the challenger now has landing capability at the car airport should one engine go out and apparently the weather there is acceptable should they have to land into car which of course they don't want to do three main engines continue to run smoothly challengers five-person crew really moving out now velocity now reading seventy two hundred feet per second i hope you noticed that gene you refer to it as a five-person crew person crew even nasa can learn to speak the language three minutes 25 seconds challenger 45 nautical miles in altitude or return status check emission control by flight director jay well that was beautiful that was so beautiful that we're going to show it to you again well challenger goes on its way here we go liftoff and we can listen it's not bad to watch again another spectacular morning the weather has cooperated just fantastically today and the folks here at the cape got a great view because there were just a few clouds you could see the solid rocket booster separate that that plume extends perhaps three times the length of the uh the shuttle uh booster system and it looks as if sally ride is on her way to do exactly what her husband steve hawley another astronaut advised her as she left he said to her have a ball everything remains nominal they certainly will like i say she got all her luggage on board and it got off on time and i think that's a major milestone of its own 45 seconds nasa has a lot to its credit let's look at it again the amazing thing this time is that nasa turned it around so quickly and there were absolutely no hitches of any significance in the countdown this was absolutely the smoothest one so far they've really learned how to do it haven't they gene you and as we watch uh challenger liftoff just remember it'll be six more days and she'll be coming right back here under her own uh basically and her own power and that is uh a very unique first and uh that's what nasa really wants to isn't it that's the real key you know we can take off land from the same spot we're going to use challenger as a workforce that it really was planned to

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workforce that it really was planned to be that's just fantastic in real time now they do have a press tamika which means they're they've been given a go right on through to main engine shut off so much for the need for dakar well that's the best news of all they're on their way to orbit we'll come back and find them in orbit and we will have our coverage of the space shuttle challenger continuing in just a moment abc news one way or another the west germans have a lot of activity on board that's correct i think we misspoke slightly that was a canadian satellite did i say canadian uh the indian satellite would be on sts-8 i meant canadian of course and indonesia good pickup and those uh two satellites will be jettisoned from the challenger and the arm will be used to lift the satellite out of the cargo bay it will drop it off and the challenger and the pallet will the shuttle pallet will fly side by side for a while and the arm will retrieve that palette and bring it back on board that's an important experiment isn't it that's very important it's sort of a our version of space tag i guess you could call it space star challenger now on future flights i imagine that arm will be used to retrieve satellites that need some repair work on sts-13 we're playing a uh recovery of an alien satellite in space that should be one of the most exciting missions that we have 58 nautical miles in altitude 422 nautical miles down the range it took only 64 days to get the challenger ready for its second flight it's the uh quickest turnaround so far

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quickest turnaround so far previously fastest turnaround 82 days quite a difference we'll be coming up pretty soon on uh 3g throttling the three g's three times the acceleration of gravity is the highest g-forces that will be experienced by the crew on ascent and the engines will be throttled back at that point they'll be coming up pretty soon we've talked a lot about the first woman astronaut to fly aboard an american spacecraft 20 years and a i think one thing that should be known about sally is that she was the first astronaut i think in the world that was selected solely upon her qualifications competing against men and i think that that is a milestone well we are back here at the cape challenger it's on its way it just got the good news to go ahead to main engine cutoff which means they will be when they get there committed to orbit we're waiting for that magic moment also the next magic thing we're going to see is that the external tank the fuel tank will separate and drop into the ocean never to be seen or used again coming up to their main engine cut off now miko main engine is cut off they are committed to orbit payload in the history of mankind four men one woman and there it goes that's the external tank separating about to drop into the ocean you see challenger looks as if it's upside down of course in space gene there is no upside down right well but relative thus of course it is looking down at the earth as it goes uh final effort in orbit is on its way and uh we're very happy and proud about that

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and proud about that after they get into orbit a little bit uh time from now they will have lots of activities to perform and our colleague jules bergman is standing by in houston where mission control is located uh good morning jules and what have you got to tell us about what challenger will do next after this terrific amazing feat good morning lynn the major flight goal is the deployment of two communication satellites one for canada to supply tv service and one for indonesia linking its thousands of islands with radio tv data and telephone service both birds weigh nearly ten thousand pounds with their engines and the most advanced made the launches should look just like this one two missions ago the canadian satellite goes first about nine hours from now followed tomorrow by the indonesian satellite they'll be hurled into their final orbits by the payload assist module rocket which worked so well last november so once again the shuttle is at work carrying payloads for profit lynn thank you jules well what a day the first american woman into space the five first five person crew uh shortly from now they will get into orbit and gene cernan i have some news for you as a result of today's successful launch sally ride has become the youngest astronaut ever to fly oh i've just been replaced again just broke gene's record gene now is the youngest male astronaut ever to explode uh a good job a good job for them thanks very much i think indeed it is a historical moment and sally's presence in space is truly a step forward i think for for the space program for capability of all of us here well i thank you gene cernan jules bergman and for all of those here at abc news who were helpful in getting that rocket off the pad and getting us to get it to you we will have more reports on challenger as the situation warrants and of course a complete wrap up tonight on the abc news weekend report i'm lynn shurer at the kennedy space center in florida good morning

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throughout the mission stay with abc news to follow the flight of challenger live coverage of today's space shuttle launch has been a special events presentation of abc news we now resume our regular program schedule after this from our local stations

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